

From: brian washburn
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:10am
Subject: Microsoft settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a U.S. Citizen and have been a microcomputer enthusiast since the end of the 1970s; since 1991, I have been employed as a writer, editor and industry analyst in the high-tech field.

Over the years, I've observed Microsoft use its market share in computer operating systems as a lever, systematically driving companies that were in its expansionist path out of business. I was encouraged that the Findings of Fact in this most recent Microsoft antitrust case uncovered some of these illegal practices.

However, I believe the remedy proposed between the Dept. of Justice and Microsoft is grossly inadequate, and will be ineffectual in preventing the company from continuing its past conduct.

If an effective remedy is not reached in this trial, based on Microsoft's past demonstrated behavior, it will all go back to the courts again in the future. Many more years and taxpayer dollars will need to be spent the next time around to put a more effective remedy into place.

In those years, based on Microsoft's past demonstrated behavior, the computer industry will be subject to the company's monopoly hammer. Meanwhile, the potential damage the company can cause by using its operating system monopoly to destroy competition and build monopolies in other markets is immeasurable.

I do not own stock or derive an income from computer software companies, whether Microsoft or competitors to Microsoft. I am writing this as a consumer who feels he has been harmed by Microsoft's business practices, and who has grave reservations about the future of consumer choice and the future vitality of the American high-tech economy under an inadequate settlement.

Sincerely,

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